

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2352

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION NATO

CINCPAC HONOLULU

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCLANT

S E C R E T LOURENCO MARQUES 0099

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MZ,NIO

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF US NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA -
PROBABLE MOZAMBIQUE VIEWS

REF: STATE 28352

1. SUBJECT TO LISBON'S VIEWS, FOLLOWING ARE ESTIMATED
REPLIES TO QUESTIONS POSED PARA 2 REFTEL, AS SEEN FROM HERE:

A. GIVEF PORTUGAL'S OVERRIDING INTEREST IN U.S. FRIENDSHIP,
BELIEVE PORTUGUESE (AND THEREFORE MOZAMBIQUE) AUTHORITIES
WOULD WELCOME CONTINUED AND INCREASED U.S. NAVAL VISITS
AT MOZAMBIQUE'S PORTS. DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE SATURATION POINT,

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BUT BELIEVE NAVAL VISITS TO LOURENCO MARQUES UNDER CON-

DITONS SIMILAR TO THOSE APPLYING TO PAST VISITS COULD BE ACCEPTED AT TWO OR THREE TIMES PRESENT FREQUENCY. MAIN PROBLEM WOULD BE ADDITIONAL STRAIN ON SMALL CONGEN STAFF IN PROVIDING ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, WHICH WOULD BE MAGNIFIED IF CALLS AT BEIRA, NACALA OR OTHER NORTHERN PORTS WERE INCLUDED.

B. NO REASON BELIEVE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES WOULD NOT PERMIT OVERFLIGHT AND LANDING CLEARANCES FOR PURPOSES MENTIONED.

C. BELIEVE HOST GOVERNMENT WOULD GRANT SHORE LEAVE FOR UP TO SEVERAL DAYS AT A TIME, PROVIDED NUMBERS OF PERSONNEL REMAIN WITHIN MANAGEABLE LIMITS AND ARE UNIFORMED SO THAT THEY CAN BE DISTINGUISHED FROM OTHER VISITORS AND GIVEN SPECIAL HANDLING IN CASE OF TROUBLE.

D. THIS WOULD DEPEND ON FREQUENCY, DURATION AND OTHER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES RELATING TO VISITS, AS WELL AS OVERALL U.S.-PORTUGAL RELATIONS, AND SHOULD MORE APPROPRIATELY BE TAKEN UP WITH LISBON. THUS FAR NO INDICATION YET THAT SUCH AGREEMENTS WOULD BE REQUIRED.

E. JUDGING FROM PAST VISITS U.S. UNITS WOULD BE AUTHORIZED PROVIDE THEIR OWN MILITARY POLICE FUNCTIONS, BUT PROBABLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH LOCAL POLICE UNITS BECAUSE OF LANGUAGE PROBLEMS.

F. BUNKERING SERVICES WOULD DEPEND ON AVAILABILITY OF FUEL OF THE TYPES REQUIRED AT TIME OF EACH VISIT/ WE FORESEE NO POLITICAL OR OTHER IMPEDIMENTS TO FUEL SUPPLY.

G. IN VIEW CONSIDERATIONS DISCUSSED UNDER A, WE BELIEVE PORTUGUESE WOULD WELCOME U.S. NAVAL PORT VISITS REGARDLESS OF CALLS AT THIRD COUNTRY PORTS ON INDIAN OCEAN. PORTUGUESE WOULD REGARD INCREASED U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN INDIAN OCEAN AS WELCOME COUNTER WEIGHT TO GROWING SOVIET NAVAL STRENGTH IN AREA.

H. ANY CLOSER COOPERATION BY UGMS. NAVAL FORCES WITH
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PORTUGUESE NAVAL FORCES WOULD HAVE ADVERSE POLITICAL EFFECT ON U.S. RELATIONS WITH OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND BARRING CONSIDERATIONS BEYOND OUR PURVIEW, WOULD THEREFORE NOT SEEM DESIRABLE. WE ALSO BELIEVE PORTUGUESE WOULD CONSIDER SYMBOLIC VALUE OF INCREASED NUMBER OF U.S. NAVAL VISITS SUFFICIENT INDUCEMENT TO COOPERATION IN LOGISTICAL SUPPORT REQUIRED.

VAN OSS

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